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Laird Names Civilian Panel To Check Military Spying

Associated Press

Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird established new machinery yesterday to tighten civilian control of domestic investigations by military agents. But he reversed his decision to take command of foreign intelligence away from the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Spurred by allegations that military agents spied on anti-war, and civil rights leaders, Laird issued a directive calling for a civilian-dominated defense investigative program "that protects the national security interests while insuring the constitutional civil and private rights" of citizens and organizations.

He created a new Review Council made up of senior civilian officials, including the under secretaries of the Army, Navy and Air Force, and a single military man, the director of the Defense Intelligence Agency.

This council will be headed by Assistant Secretary of Defense Robert F. Froehlke, who will be directly responsible to Laird to "direct, manage and inspect military investigative and related counterintelligence activities." The council will report directly to Laird.

In discussing the first Pentagon-wide mechanism for controlling domestic intelligence, Froehlke said allegations of investigative abuses are exaggerated, but "nevertheless did give cause for concern" and led to corrective actions and organizational changes.

The gathering of files on political figures and political dissidents has become a matter of concern on Capitol Hill and elsewhere and Froehlke said that high on the list of matters to be taken up by the new council will be the fate of existing files.

In setting in motion the studies which led to the new actions, Laird said in a memorandum last Dec. 23 that the Defense Intelligence Agency, which collects and analyzes information on foreign countries and potential enemies, would be made to report directly to



ROBERT F. FROEHLKE

... leads review team...

him, rather than to the Joint Chiefs of Staff as at present.

Froehlke told newsmen that issue did not have to be resolved at this time.

But under further questioning Froehlke agreed that Laird's earlier decision "has been reversed," at least for the time being.

He predicted that Laird will "continue to take a look at the relationship" between the Defense Intelligence Agency, the

In his Dec. 23 memorandum, Laird directed that the head of the Defense Intelligence Agency, a general, should be responsible to him for planning, conduct and control of both foreign intelligence and domestic counter intelligence.

Froehlke stressed that domestic and foreign intelligence work, and even personnel, are separate and indicated they would remain so.

Resor Denies Army Spied on Illinoisans

Associated Press

Secretary of the Army Stanley R. Resor says the names of three top Illinois officials, including Sen. Adlai E. Stevenson III, might have shown up in intelligence reports but none of them was a subject of Army spying.

Resor made the disclosure in a seven-page letter to Rep. Ogden R. Reid (R.N.Y.).

chiefs and himself and hinted that the Pentagon's boss may act in the future.

Another Laird plan also appeared to have gone by the board.